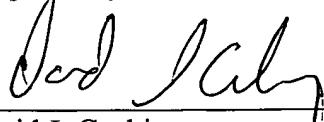


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Appln. No. 10/019,937

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 17, 2002

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

3. (Amended)A method according to ~~claim 1 or claim 2~~claim 1, characterized in that call handovers are commanded collectively for a plurality of terminals.

6. (Amended)A method according to ~~claim 4 or claim 5~~claim 4, characterized in that the handover times are distributed so that the resources used by each satellite are substantially the same.

7. (Amended)A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, characterized in that the times of handover of calls from one satellite to another are predefined for each terminal.

9. (Amended)A method according to ~~claim 7 or claim 8~~claim 7, characterized in that a call is handed over to another satellite ahead of time if said other satellite provides a communication capacity greater than that of the former satellite.

10. (Amended)A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, characterized in that the terrestrial areas (20_i) are fixed.

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11. (Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, characterized in that the resources allocated to a terminal for a satellite include a carrier frequency and a plurality of codes, especially Hadamard sequences, and/or time slots.

12. (Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, characterized in that a single system (72) for allocating resources (74) is provided in each terminal and/or the management station and said resources are duplicated during a handover period.

14. (Amended) A method according to ~~claim 12 or claim 13~~claim 12, characterized in that zero power is allocated to signals on the second path before handover and zero power is allocated to signals on the first path after handover.

16. (Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 15~~claim 12, characterized in that the powers allocated to the duplicated cells or packets are monitored.

20. (Amended) A terminal according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 19~~claim 17, characterized in that it includes two directional antennas, one intended to be pointed toward one satellite and the other toward another satellite.

25. (Amended) A management station according to ~~any one of claims 22 to 24~~claim

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22, characterized in that it includes a system for allocating the terminals carrier frequencies divided into non-contiguous subsets, two carriers from the same subset being chosen to hand over a call from one satellite to another.